

Sylvia Medina, a successful businesswoman from Idaho Falls, works to economically empower women and encourage the Latina community to participate in politics. John Rauker, an anti-drug campaign advocate, rescues at-risk children and opened drug rehab centers in Twin Falls and Pocatello for teens. Maria Sanchez, from American Falls, is an Idaho State University student who has excelled playing soccer for the university and is training to play for the Mexican national women's soccer team in the World Cup. Donna Scroggins, of Ririe, has dedicated many years to service. She is a World War II veteran who also served as a Peace Corp volunteer and nursed those in need in Ecuador and Afton, WY.

Judge Norman Randy Smith, of Pocatello, has served with distinction on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and is significantly involved with education and empowering students. Carmen Stanger, of Boise and Pocatello, channeled the loss of her daughter to bullying to leading antibullying efforts and working to empower teens and prevent similar tragedies in other families. Pastor Jacqueline Thomas, of Pocatello, grew the church she started from a congregation of 3 to more than 200. As an African-American woman pastor, she is actively involved in helping people in the community and providing a safe haven for those who are struggling.

Thank you to all the Hometown Hero Award recipients for the good works you inspire in others through your commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. Congratulations on receiving this deserved recognition.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FITE FAMILY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Aaron and Tami Fite of Platte, SD. I selected the Fites to receive the 2015 Angels in Adoption Award presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. I chose this couple for the way they have opened their hearts and homes to their children Cody and Cate through adoption and the way they have helped inspire their community to better understand adoption and children with all types of abilities.

Though they initially intended to adopt a child from abroad, God changed their hearts and brought Cody into their lives. During the first 3 years of his life, Cody had a variety of complex medical needs, but thanks to Aaron and Tami's love and support, today he is a healthy and vibrant 11-year-old who competes in basketball, track, and softball at the Special Olympics.

Two years after adopting Cody, Aaron and Tami welcomed a baby girl, Cate, into their home through adoption. Cate has a condition she developed in the womb that prevents her from being able to walk or talk on her own. Despite these challenges, she has mastered using a Mustang walker to

walk and using an Eyegaze communication tool that allows her to talk to others using her eyes. Cate captivates others with her beautiful smile and gentle spirit.

Not long after adopting Cate, Tami unexpectedly became pregnant. Chloe was born in 2010, and another daughter, Clare, was born in 2012.

I am inspired by the Fites' faith in the Lord and their desire to spread the word about life. I am pleased they were able to travel to Washington, D.C., to help advocate for their message that opening homes to children through adoption can help spread the word that every life is valuable.

The Angels in Adoption award recognizes individuals, couples, and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of a family. Awardees from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, come together in Washington, D.C., each year to participate in events that celebrate their heroic actions and enable them to use their personal experience to effect change on a national level.

Aaron and Tami's exemplary actions demonstrate the positive impact adopting a child can have on a family and a community, and the Fites are more than deserving of this award. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Aaron and Tami and their family, and I wish them the best of luck in the future.●

#### RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, too often our days are filled with news of worldwide violence and hardship. It is during these times that it is especially important to recognize those communities that find ways daily to celebrate life, family, and culture. Today, I would like to recognize Lafayette, LA, a city that goes above and beyond to distinguish itself as a cultural crossroads and one of the happiest places to live in America.

According to a 2014 report by the Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch, the top five happiest cities in America are all located in Louisiana, with Lafayette taking the top spot. For anyone who has ever visited this jewel of south Louisiana, the recognition will come as no surprise. Lafayette is located in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole country—an area known for its upbeat music, flavorful foods, and for letting the good times roll.

Each and every day, Lafayette's rich, unique history and culture can be seen throughout the streets of the city and the personalities of its residents. Entertaining, educational events are scattered throughout the calendar year, ensuring guests from around the world are shown a slice of the Lafayette way of life. Festivals such as the Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, held every October, provide an opportunity to experience the one-of-a-kind food, music, and

traditions that the Lafayette region has to offer. Another annual Lafayette festival, the Festival International de Louisiane, attracts folks from across the State and the region in celebrating the intriguing history and culture shared between Louisiana and the Francophone world.

Lafayette is truly like no other place in the world; just ask any of its residents. With renowned food, music, and festivals, it is no wonder the population of this southern paradise always has a reason to smile. Congratulations again to Lafayette, LA, on the recognition of being the happiest place to live; and I wish you many more successful, happy years building and growing south Louisiana.●

#### RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE MUSIC COMPANY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, American musicians play a large role in the cultural development of our Nation's history, and much of that success is due to the local small businesses responsible for providing the equipment and instruction musicians need. This week's Small Business of the Week has an expert staff that is dedicated to serving all kinds of musicians. Congratulations to Lafayette Music Company of Lafayette, LA, for being selected Small Business of the Week.

The Lafayette Music Company is a 60-year-old family-owned business that has continuously provided musicians in their community with excellent equipment and instruction. Built in 1955 by Mr. William C. "Bill" Peyton, the Lafayette Music Company initially focused on the sale of pianos and organs. When Mr. Raymond J. Goodrich joined the sales team in 1967, he expanded the company's focus to include servicing additional instruments, including the brass family. Under Mr. Goodrich's management, the Lafayette Music Company developed a band department, catering to schools in the Acadiana region of south Louisiana. Mr. Goodrich's affable approach to securing a local consumer base offered a unique and personalized level of assistance that was unrivaled in the area. After working as a salesman and sales manager for 6 years and part owner for 3 years, Mr. Goodrich purchased a majority of the company's shares to become the primary owner.

Today, Mr. Goodrich and his wife, Karen, provide beginner, intermediate, and expert musicians with a diverse product selection. The Lafayette Music Company offers a wide array of the latest guitars, drums, band instruments, accessories, pianos, church organs, and more, as well as an in-house repair department that has been in service for more than 80 years. Additionally, the Lafayette Music Company boasts an astonishing customer service record that has ranked them in the top 100 largest music products retailers by The Music Trades magazine for 3 consecutive years.